

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03774 161356Z

44

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USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T USNATO 3774

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, PARM

SUBJECT: JULY 15 PERMREPS LUNCH: DISCUSSIONS ON KISSINGER-
GROMYKO MEETING AND SALT

REF STATE 165223 (NOTAL)

1. AT JULY 15 PERMREP'S LUNCH, AMB. BRUCE TOLD THE ALLIES THAT
HE WOULD INFORM THE NAC, JULY 18, ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
RECENT MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA.

2. CONCERNING SALT CONSULTATIONS, THE ALLIES EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS
INTEREST IN AN EARLY COUNCIL MEETING WITH AMB. JOHNSON, PREFERABLY
BEFORE THE CSCE SUMMIT. AMB. BRUCE RESPONDED THAT SINCE THERE
SEEMED TO BE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS,
SUCH CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE CSCE FINALE.
NO ONE, HOWEVER, SUPPORTED THIS POSITION.

3. IN POST-LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, A UK DELOFF TOLD US THAT UK
CHARGE LOGAN ENDORSED CALL FOR EARLY NAC DISCUSSIONS ON SALT
BOTH TO RETAIN VALUED PRECEDENT OF NAC CONSULTATIONS EITHER
SHORTLY BEFORE OR AFTER RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA
AND BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY OF CSCE SUMMIT. WHILE UK DEL APPRECIATED
THAT LITTLE MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO DATE IN GENEVA, CONSULTATIONS
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PAGE 02 NATO 03774 161356Z

WOULD PROVIDE MEANS FOR ALLIES TO PREPARE THEIR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
FOR CSCE STATE III. MOREOVER, UK DEL BELIEVED THAT US MIGHT USE
EARLY SALT CONSULTATION FOR INTERIM RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED
IN PETRIGNANI GROUP PRESENTATION AT MAY 7 SALT CONSULTATIONS

(USNATO 2598). IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, UK DELOFF SUGGESTED THAT PETRIGNANI GROUP DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE A FORMAL AND FINAL RESPONSE TO POINTS MADE IN PETRIGNANI GROUP PAPER (USNATO 2423), BUT WOULD APPRECIATE LATEST US THINKING ON THESE ISSUES.

4. COMMENT: SALT CONSULTATION PRECEDENT, SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO AND PROXIMITY OF CSCE SUMMIT HAVE CLEARLY WHETTED ALLIED APPETITES FOR COUNCIL MEETING WITH AMB. JOHNSON PRIOR TO OPENING OF CSCE STAGE III. DEPENDING ON ITS CONTENT, INFORMATION AMB. BRUCE WILL GIVE COUNCIL ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GROMYKO MIGHT GO SOME WAY TOWARD SATISFYING ALLIED INTEREST IN LATEST SALT DEVELOPMENTS. ON OTHER HAND, ALLIES VERY MUCH APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY PERMITTED BY REGULAR SALT CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS FOR EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS TO BE PRESENT. THIS FACTOR IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE COMPELLING NOW AS GOVERNMENTS PREPARE THEIR LEADERS FOR HELSINKI.

5. WITH REGARD TO RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY PETRIGNANI GROUP, WE AGREE WITH UK DELOFF THAT DETAILED FORMAL RESPONSE IS NEITHER POSSIBLE, EXPECTED NOR REQUIRED AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, LATEST US VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES COULD BE PRESENTED IN AMB. JOHNSON'S COUNCIL STATEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH IS SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSMITTED TO DELEGATIONS.

6. IF DEPARTMENT AND SALT DELEGATION AGREE WITH MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT A PRE-HELSINKI SALT CONSULTATION WOULD BE BOTH TIMELY AND USEFUL, WE BELIEVE SUCH SESSION SHOULD BE HELD NOT LATER THAN JULY 25 IN ORDER TO PERMIT ALLIES TO BRIEF THEIR PRINCIPALS PRIOR TO CSCE SUMMIT.
BRUCE

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